

**NEVADA STATE WELFARE DIVISION
PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT REGULATIONS**

The Public Hearing to Adopt Regulations was brought to order by Nancy K. Ford, Welfare Administrator, at 9:02 a.m. on Friday, March 26, 2004. This meeting was video-conferenced between Carson City and Las Vegas.

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Ford, Administrator
Gary Stagliano, Deputy Administrator, Program and Field Operations
Jerry Allen, Chief, Child Care Program
Leslie Danihel, Chief, Eligibility & Payments
Brenda Burch, Chief, Investigations & Recovery
Marta Stagliano, Child Care Program Specialist
Louise Bush, Staff Specialist
Vicki Kemp, Eligibility & Payments Program Specialist
Lynette Giles, Executive Assistant
Robin Roach, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT

Roberta Leatherwood, Program Assistant, Inter-Tribal Council of NV
Paula Hawkins, Chief, Bureau of Services of Child Care, DCFS
Pat Hedgecoth, Social Welfare Program Chief III, DCFS
Laurie Buck, Deputy Attorney General

Ms. Ford brought the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. She explained the public hearing is being video-conferenced between the Welfare Division's Central Office in Carson City and the Special Children's Clinic in Las Vegas. This public hearing is being held to adopt various policies. There are five items on the agenda. However, items numbered one and four have been dropped from the agenda; they will not be heard and no action will be taken. The meeting has been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Ford explained the three regulations being heard at this public hearing.

I. CHILD CARE POLICY MANUAL:

This item was withdrawn from this public hearing. If it is considered for future action, it will be properly noticed for public hearing.

II. CHILD CARE POLICY MANUAL:

Mr. Allen explained the proposed amendment to the Child Care Policy Manual which is to require registered providers who offer in-home services to care for a minimum of two (2) children to be eligible as an in-home provider. The effective date of this amendment is April 1, 2004. The reason for this amendment is to ensure the providers are making at least minimum wage.

Ms. Ford asked for clarification on in-home providers. Mr. Allen explained this is only for care in the child's own home. For example, if the grandmother cares for the child in the child's home, the policy is in effect. If the child goes to the grandmother's home, this policy will not affect them.

Hearing no public comment, Ms. Ford adopted the regulation on behalf of the Director of the Department of Human Resources to be effective April 1, 2004.

III. CHILD CARE POLICY MANUAL:

An amendment to the Child Care Policy Manual is proposed to exclude adult members of the household who are not responsible for the child requesting child care subsidy benefits, unless the applicant is a minor parent. The effective date of this amendment is February 25, 2004.

This is reversing a policy change in effect since July 1, 2004 which counts the income of all adults in the household.

Hearing no public comment, Ms. Ford adopted the regulation on behalf of the Director of the Department of Human Resources.

IV. CHILD CARE POLICY MANUAL:

This item was withdrawn from this public hearing. If it is considered for future action, it will be properly noticed for public hearing.

V. E & P POLICY MANUAL:

An amendment to the Eligibility & Payments manual proposed the automatic Medicaid enrollment of newborns effective the day of the mother's expected delivery date. Ms. Danihel, explained this change will help to expedite Medicaid payments.

Ms. Danihel explained the new policy change and the reason behind it. The effective date of July 1, 2004 has been changed to May 1, 2004 or as soon as is administratively possible.

Ms. Ford stated this new policy will benefit both families and Medicaid, and will help providers be paid in a timely matter.

Hearing no further public comment, Ms. Ford adopted the regulation on behalf of the Director of the Department of Human Resources, effective May 1, 2004 or as soon as administratively possible.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Hawkins, Chief, Bureau of Services of Child Care, DCFS, has concerns the foster care maintenance payment each month is considered for relatives with foster children placed in their homes. Ms. Hawkins noted her concern is about strange or non-relative type placement because the relatives who are working cannot afford child care. Ms. Hawkins expressed her concerns about foster care payments being considered as income, whereas, foster care payments do not have to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

Ms. Ford explained Welfare staff will meet with her to discuss these issues and explain the reason behind the change in policy.

Hearing no further public comment, Ms. Ford thanked those in attendance for their participation and adjourned the public hearing at 9:13 a.m.